

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OEXC, VE
SUBJ: VOLUNTARY VISITORS PROGRAM

1. COL. LUIS OCTAVIO ROMERO, HEAD OF THE NATIONAL OFFICE FOR PUBLIC MAINTENANCE(DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE TO PRESIDENT PEREZ) HAS REQUESTED FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE FROM THE POST IN SETTING UP AN ITINERARY FOR A TWO WEEK U.S. VISIT IN FEBRUARY OR MARCH TO OBSERVE THE MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND INSTALLATIONS (SUCH AS EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, PUBLIC HEALTH FACILITIES, SPORTS INSTALLATION, PARKS, AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS) AT THE FEDERAL, STATE, COUNTY, AND MUNICIPAL LEVELS.

2. ROMERO EXPLAINED THAT VENEZUELA HAS AN INVESTMENT OF SOME \$10 BILLION IN PUBLIC WORKS AND INSTALLATIONS WHICH ARE DETERIORATING RAPIDLY BECAUSE OF INADEQUATE MAINTENANCE. IN ANALYZING THE RESPONSIBILITIES AND TASKS INVOLVED BY HIS RECENTLY CREATED OFFICE, HE EXPECTS THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD HAVE RELEVANT EXPERIENCE WHICH WOULD GUIDE HIM AND HIS ASSOCIATED IN REVISING THE VENEZUELAN MAINTENANCE PROGRAM. THE FUNCTION OF HIS OFFICE IS TO DIRECT AND SUPERVISE MAINTENANCE PROGRAMS ON THE MUNICIPAL AND STATE LEVELS AND TO ELABORATE DIRECTIVES FOR THE STATE GOVERNORS ON HOW MAINTENANCE PROGRAMS SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT.
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PAGE 02 CARACA 14848 301552Z

3. ROMERO'S PRIME INTEREST IS THE OBSERVATION OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL AND MANAGERIAL ASPECTS OF MAINTENANCE PROGRAMS IN THE U.S. AND TO A SMALL EXTEND ONLY THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS. HE WOULD ALSO BE INTERESTED IN VISITING A UNIVERSITY WHICH OFFERS COURSES IN PUBLIC MAINTENANCE AND WOULD LIKE TO OBTAIN PERTINENT

BIBLIOGRAPHY. THE POST SUGGESTS A WELL-KNOWN MANAGEMENT SCHOOL SUCH AS THE WHARTON SCHOOL OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE OR CORNELL UNIVERSITY BE CONTACTED. PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS ON THE CONSERVATION OF PUBLIC PROPERTY WOULD ALSO BE OF INTEREST.

4. IN VIEW OF PRESIDENT PEREZ' SPECIAL INTEREST IN A RAPID IMPROVEMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC INSTALLATIONS, THE POST WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANCE IN SUGGESTING AN APPROPRIATE ITINERARY, POSSIBLE TO INCLUDE TALK WITH COUNTY FINANCED SERVICES/AID.

COL. ROMERO HAS NO REGIONAL PREFERENCES REGARDING HIS U.S. VISIT; THE ITINERARY NEED NOT TO BE LIMITED TO THE EAST COAST BUT MAY INCLUDE CALIFORNIA. REGARDING CITIES TO BE VISITED, SOME SHOULD BE OF THE APPROXIMATE SIZE OF CARACAS (3 MILLION INHABITANTS), BUT THIS NOT INDISPENSABLE.

5. COL ROMERO WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY ONE OF HIS ASSOCIATES, CIVIL ENGINEER OTTO H. MONCH. ALL EXPENSES FOR ROMERO AND MONCH WOULD BE COVERED BY THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT. CLEARANCE OBTAINED FOR ROMERO AND MONCH. MONCH HAS STUDIED IN THE US. AND SPEAKS ENGLISH.

6. POST WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S IN PROVIDING ASSISTANCE THIS IMPORTANT PROJECT AND WOULD APPRECIATE CABLED REPLY SOONEST.
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